registration exceeded 1,86,000, showing an increase of 6,258 over the preceding year. Of the total registrations 97 per cent related to immovable property. The number of wills registered rose from 190 to 205. It is satisfactory to note that in spite of the large number of instruments registered, as many as 98·8 per cent were registered on the day of presentation.

10. **Joint-Stock Companies.**—26 Companies were registered during the year against 6 in 1079. One of these, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is maintained by voluntary contributions. The number of companies registered with capital divided into shares increased from 5 to 10. This is encouraging. The registration of so many as 15 companies for mutual help at times of marriages and deaths is also a noteworthy fact.

11. **Military.**—The permanent lines of the Company of the 1st Battalion at Pangode which were under construction were completed and handed over early in the year. A set of rules for the punishment of crime in the Nayar Brigade was passed under Regulation VI of 1079.

12. **Forests.**—The total area of forests reserved up to the end of the year was 2,245 square miles. Including the area of reserved lands, about 2,550 square miles or nearly one-third of the area of the whole State is under reservation. An area of 311 acres was added to the Teak plantations, the total area now being 2,225 acres. The Government Para Rubber plantations at Vamanapurom, Malayattur and Rani are reported to be doing well. As private rubber plantations are springing up and numerous applications for land for rubber cultivation are coming in, it is not considered necessary to add to the area of the experimental cultivation.

Endeavours are being made to provide grazing grounds and lands for other communal purposes in the several villages. Suggestions have also been received from the Acting Conservator of Forests for granting suitable lands for paddy cultivation in certain reserves where such grants would not be detrimental to forest conservation. Definite schemes have yet to be formulated, and the matter is receiving the careful consideration of Government.

Over 9,80,000 cubic feet of timber, excluding firewood, were removed from the forests during the year. Lemon grass was declared to be a reserved produce, and the industry connected with it is rising in importance. There is a great demand for the oil in the European markets.

Seven elephants were captured during the year. The rules for the up-keep of trained elephants, which were tentatively sanctioned for one year, were finally passed.

The organisation and working of this Department, which controls nearly a third of the area of the State, require improvement in different directions. It is proposed to hold a Conference on Forest matters shortly when proposals for working the Department on a sound basis will be taken up for consideration.

13. **Cardamom and other Produce.**—The Cardamom crops amounted to 20,432 tulams against 8,268 in the previous year, showing a considerable increase in the yield. But the average price is reported to have fallen from Rs. 12 to Rs. 8 per tulam, making it impossible for

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many of the ryots to pay their kists. The Government had in consequence to allow the collection of the kist to stand over till the current year.

As promised at the last meeting of the Assembly I paid a visit to the High Range and Peermade. I had the pleasure of meeting the various Planting Agencies, both European and Native, and studying their needs and requirements on the spot. A conference was held at Cumbam at which a large number of influential cardamom ryots were present. As a result of the conference His Highness the Maha Rajah has been pleased to sanction several measures which are likely to improve the position and prospects of the cardamom ryots. Full proprietary rights were granted to the holders in their cardamom holdings; they were allowed to pay the upset price of Rs. 10 per acre in 10 yearly instalments; the assessment was reduced from Rs. 6¼ per acre to Rs. 2; a sum of Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned for the purpose of opening out-let roads; the period of 3 years for which the assessment of one rupee per acre was levied was extended to 4 years; and several other minor concessions were also granted. Government hope that these liberal concessions will induce the ryots to bring fresh lands under Cardamom cultivation and to settle down on the Hills. At the request of the Kannan Devan Planters' Association, a grant of Rs. 100 a month was sanctioned for the Yellapatty Dispensary.

Tea.—The outturn of tea has largely increased, being over 7¾ million lbs. against nearly 6 million lbs. in the last year.

New Products.— Several applications for the cultivation of new varieties of cotton and rubber have been received and are under consideration.

14. **Public Works.**—In connection with the re-organisation of the Accounts system of the whole State, the P. W. Accounts Establishment, which had been under the control of the Chief Engineer, was transferred to the Central Account and Audit Office in the latter half of the year. This arrangement it is hoped would enable the Chief Engineer to pay more attention to the projecting and carrying out of public works required for the development of the country.

Another important change effected during the year was the transfer, to the Civil Departments concerned, of the maintenance of buildings and construction of petty works costing below Rs. 500. These works require little or no professional skill and it is unnecessary to burden the P. W. D. with them. It is reported that the new arrangement has already "relieved the P. W. D. staff of a large amount of worry and correspondence with other Departments".

The total expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 20,62,119 and was distributed as follows:—

Expenditure on actual works *i. e.*, under the usual Service heads of "Buildings," "Communications;" "Miscellaneous Public Improvements" and "Irrigation"	Rs.	17,28,375
Establishment	,,	2,40,562
Tools and Plant	,,	73,053
Suspense items	,,	20,129

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